II. <u>REMARKS</u>

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 1-5 have been allowed and that the Examiner has determined that claims 7-10 and 12-15 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated September 19, 2005, at 3, lines 4-7).

Claims 7, 12 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 8, 11 and 13 have been amended as follows. Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Therefore, claim 6 now has the same scope as previous claim 7. Claim 8 has been amended to depend upon claim 6. The present amendment has no limiting effect on the scope of claim 8. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Therefore, claim 11 now has the same scope as previous claim 12. Claim 13 has been amended to depend upon claim 11. The present amendment has no limiting effect on the scope of claim 13.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment, and the present amendment raises no new issues.

III. Conclusion

Claims 1-5 have been allowed. Independent claims 6 and 11 now incorporate allowable subject matter and are allowable for the reasons of record. Claims 8-10 depend either directly or indirectly on claim 6, and claims 13-15 depend either directly or indirectly on claim 11; therefore, these claims are also allowable for the reasons of record.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-15 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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